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## NEW YORK MAN LASHED, DRIVEN FROM CAROLINA

Peter McMann Tells Tale of  
Brutal Beating by Trenton, S. C., Band.

TOLD TO STAY AWAY

Took Side of Employer's  
Daughter in Quarrel  
Over Land Title.

SHE COMES TO HELP HIM

Southern Magistrate Writes  
That Two Warrants Are  
Out for Assaults.

The complete story of his capture near Trenton, S. C., by masked men who tied him to a tree and, after applying lash, club and the butt of a revolver, put him on a train and told him never to show his face in the South again, was told to THE NEW YORK HERALD yesterday by Peter McMann of 148 Elm street, Yonkers.

It was supplemented by the narrative of Miss Florence Powell, daughter of James Powell, retired South Carolina banker. She saw McMann carried off by the knights of the white mask, and has come to New York to plan with him legal action against his assailants.

McMann, who is 55 years old, is white haired and ruddy faced, the picture of the old time English born family coachman, which he is. He says that years ago he guided the broughams of Charles H. Pearsall, vice-president of the Manhattan Bank, and George T. Bliss, Levi P. Morton's partner, and at another period had charge of the stables at Clyde Park, Brookline, Mass. When the motor displaced the horse he learned to drive an automobile.

For the last two years he has been chauffeur for Mr. Powell and Miss Powell. The banker is seventy-five years old and blind. Some of his relatives have been trying to have him declared legally incompetent. Miss Powell has been resisting and also fighting for possession of property which she says is withheld from her. McMann has taken her side. This, they agree, is the reason he was seized on the night of October 18, flogged until his senses were numbed and then exiled from the South.

### Two Warrants Issued.

McMann has a fresh scar on the side of his head, above the left temple, and others on the back of the head. He walks stiffly. He says his back is still encircled by welts made by a whip of many lashes while he was bound to a tree at the side of a country road, in the glare of his tormentors' two automobiles. Arriving in Philadelphia on October 20, he could stand the pain no longer and got off the train for medical attention. Then he went on to Yonkers, where his wife has been nursing him ever since. Miss Powell arrived in New York before him, and is staying at the Laura Spellman Hall of the Y. W. C. A. at Twelfth and Hudson streets.

McMann showed a reporter for this newspaper a letter he had received from Magistrate Wallace M. Wise of Edgefield, S. C. It was dated October 26, said that warrants had been issued for Charlie White and Gus Edwards, and added:

"Let me know if you will come back

here if needed to testify. Will have the Governor furnish every protection. The people of Trenton and the community are indignant over the perpetration of this crime against any stranger that comes within its gates."

McMann says he will indeed go back if protection is guaranteed and his expenses are paid. He says that the Charlie Hall mentioned in the Magistrate's letter is a brother-in-law of Miss Powell, and that he, McMann, recognized Hall as the leader of the masked band.

According to McMann, he was warned twice before October 18 that his life was in danger if he remained in the South, and he says he was arrested once on a trumped up charge designed to scare him into departing. When this charge fell flat he decided to come North, anyway, and on the evening of October 18 went from Edgefield to Trenton, S. C., intending to go to Columbia and board a through train. Miss Powell was with him.

"But while we were waiting at the station in Trenton," McMann says, "a man in overalls, who I now know was a policeman in disguise, took my arm and said: 'You're wanted over there.' He took me along the track forty or fifty yards and then across the track to a place where forty or fifty young men were standing around two automobiles.

### Tried to Hang Him.

"Eight of the men—I counted them later—were masked. They were not hooded, Ku Klux style, but had white cloth, with eye holes cut in it, tied over the upper part of their faces. One of them, without saying anything, grabbed me and shoved me into the front of the car with our traveling bags—Miss Powell's and mine. She had followed me from the station. When the automobile started off she jumped on the running board and tried to climb in, but they pushed her off. That's the last I saw of her until I got back to New York."

"Trenton—Senator Ben Tillman lived there—is a small place and dark at night. There were people around. They seemed to know what was up, but I couldn't tell who any of them were. The two automobiles started off like mad and drove that fashion for about twenty miles.

"Where are you taking me?" I said. One of the men answered, 'To jail.' They stopped at a place where they had a kind of a siding. They seemed to know the spot. A rope was hoisted around my neck and I was yanked out of the car as if I had been a dog. One of the men threw the other end of the rope over the branch of a tree, but by some godsend it didn't catch, or wasn't long enough. It came tumbling down again.

"I began to thresh around, trying to get loose. Then the leader said, 'Bring him up here.' They dragged me up to the trunk of a tree, about 8 or 10 feet high. McMann's embrace indicated a tree two feet in diameter. 'There the leader said to me, 'Will you make affidavit that Miss Powell is not capable of taking care of her father's property?' 'I will not,' I said. 'I thought I was done for. I said, 'Since you are going to kill me, let me say that the lady you mention is capable and honest and pure and as kind a daughter as a father ever had.'"

"At that the leader said, 'Pull his coat off.' I got the coat off myself, but the men yanked and tore my vest and shirt until I was naked to the waist. There

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notice, even if I could see. We were in a village. They took me out of the car and led me about half block, I should say, and then down a flight of steps into a house. The room where we went had carpet on the floor and in some other room a woman was talking into a telephone and laughing.

"The men tried to give me supper, but what with two teeth having been knocked out and the others loosened and my general all gone condition I couldn't take anything except a little sweet preserves. So they banded me outside again and had another talk among themselves. Then some of the men went away, exchanging goodnights with the others. When the blindfold was taken off I saw that only two men had been left with me. One of them was the man who all along had been the ringleader. A boy they called Charley had been taken on to drive the car.

"The ringleader was trying to talk like a friend of mine now. He said, 'Can you stand a ride of thirty miles?' 'I'm going to take you to Denmark, so that the other gang can't get you in Johnston.' I told him I guessed I could stand anything if it meant being placed on a train. The leader said: 'We're going to put you on a train for New York and buy you a ticket. Remember never to show your face down South again. If anybody asks you what's the matter tell him you had an automobile accident. At every stop the train makes a man will be in to see you and see that you don't get off, if you do try to get off you're a dead man.'

"We got to Denmark about twenty minutes after 3 on the morning of October 19, and I left on the 4:05 train. The ringleader gave me \$35 for a ticket to New York and stood beside me at the ticket window while I bought it. The ticket agent looked at me and said, 'What on earth is the matter with you?' The ringleader spoke up and said, 'Oh, he's had an automobile accident. He'll be all right.' Then I lay down on a bench until the train came. The ringleader stayed right with me till I got into a day coach. All the time he was in the railroad station he had his mask off, and though his hat was pulled down and his coat collar turned up, I recognized him. He was Charley Hill, Miss Powell's brother-in-law.

"I believe there are fourteen steps between one of them a man came into the car and looked at me and then went out. As it seemed to be a different man each time I figured that the gang had wired to friends at each town along the line. When I got to Philadelphia I felt so sick I got off and a policeman took

me to Hahnemann Hospital. I looked so banged up that I guess the policeman took me for a murderer. But in the morning, after my wounds were dressed, I went on to Yonkers."

While McMann told this story Miss Powell sat by, listening and nodding her head over assertions that came within her knowledge.

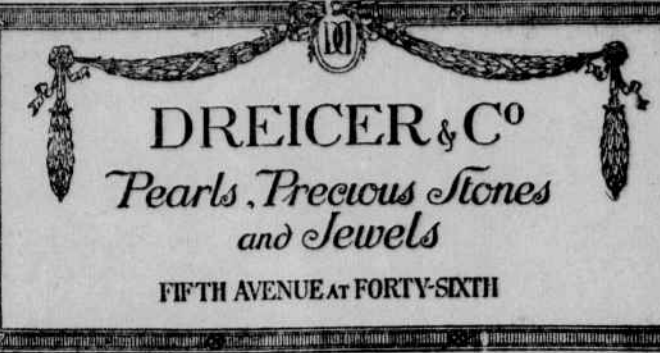
"When the masked men dragged Peter into the automobile at the Trenton station and took him away," she said, "I was frightened nearly to death. I called up the home of a brother-in-law, P. F. Henderson, in Aiken. He wasn't at home. His wife, my sister, said he was at a mass meeting or a council meeting. She said she thought they were going to try Peter in a Federal court, or something like that. She told me to spend the night with friends in Trenton and come to her house in the morning. I had no intention of going to her house. A kind lady in Trenton took me in, but early in the morning she said, 'I'd rather you'd go now, as there might be trouble.'

"So I went to Edgefield and saw a lawyer, J. W. Thurman. I asked him to find out what had happened to Peter. He went out, and upon returning said, 'All I can learn is that some men have given him a few lashes and put him on a train for New York.' So I came immediately to New York, and Peter and I are trying to figure out what to do next. I have had a great deal of trouble with relatives over our property and I turned to Peter for help because he is honest and faithful to my father and myself."

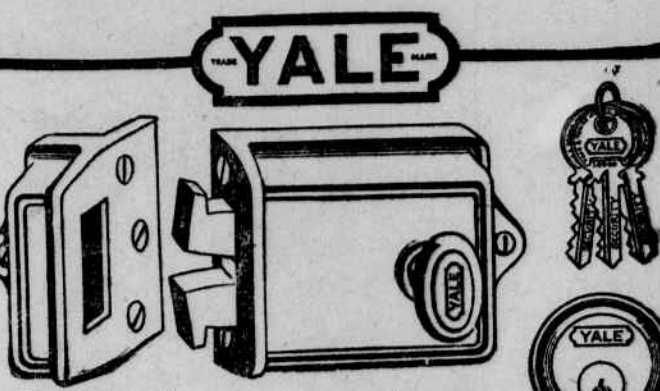
Miss Powell said that she inherited from her mother a twenty-two room house in Aiken, where she lived with her father until he went to the home of one of her sisters. She also said that a trust fund of \$30,000 had been placed in her name, and that her contention that she was entitled to more of the estate was disputed by certain relatives. She said that relatives charged her with being extravagant. She denied this, and called McMann to witness its falsity.

"Indeed it's not true," the gray haired chauffeur said.

McMann does not believe his masked torturers were members of the revised Ku Klux Klan or other organized band of night prowlers. "Just a private party," he calls them.



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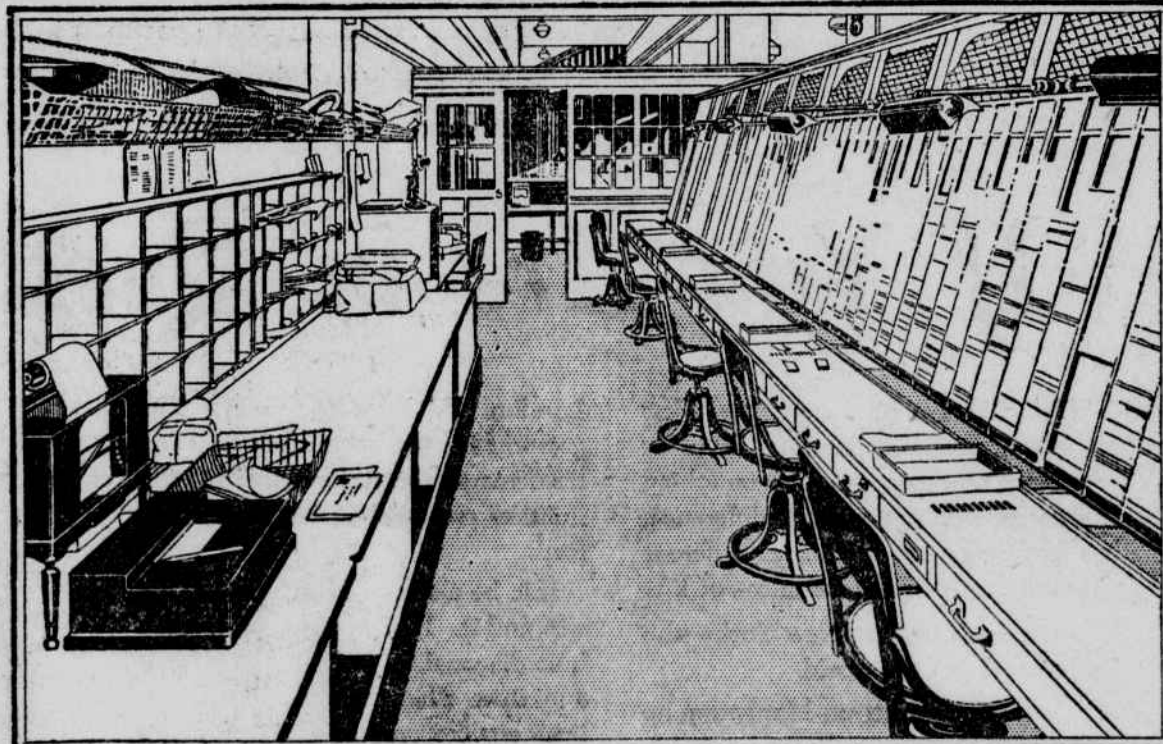
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